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Inside Wallops

NASA Filled the Calendar in 1997

NASA activities were in the news in 1997. Highlights for the year include the following:

Mars Pathfinder

One of the most watched events of the year occurred 141 million miles from Earth, as hundreds of millions of people followed the July 4 landing of NASA's Pathfinder spacecraft on Mars.

Hubble Servicing Mission

During five days of spacewalks, astronauts flawlessly performed major maintenance and upgrades to the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope, replacing older hardware with two dramatically improved instruments that are helping astronomers probe the universe in greater detail than before.

Shuttle-Mir Goes Forward

In 1997, three U.S. astronauts — Jerry Linenger, Michael Foale, and David Wolf — added to NASA's long duration record aboard Mir. Despite problems on the Mir, NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin concluded that Shuttle-Mir has a thorough review process which warrants continued American participation in the program.

NASA Satellites Provide View of El Nino Weather Phenomena

Pacific Ocean sea-surface height measurements and atmospheric water vapor information taken from independent Earth-orbiting satellites, the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite, the NASA Scatterometer, TOPEX/POSEIDON, and SeaWiFS have convinced scientists of what they had earlier postulated — a full-blown El Nino condition is established in the Pacific.

Cassini Launches to Saturn

The international Cassini mission left Earth bound for Saturn on Oct. 15. With the European Space Agency's Huygens probe and a high-gain antenna provided by the Italian Space Agency, Cassini will arrive at Saturn July 1, 2004.

X-33 and X-34 Demonstrators Achieve Major Milestones

The X-33 technology demonstrator, scheduled to begin flights in mid-1999, successfully passed its critical design review, and the X-34 successfully passed a design freeze.

Galileo Discovers Icebergs on Europa

Images captured during Galileo's closest flyby of Europa on Feb. 20 showed features of the Jovian moon,

lending credence to the possibility of hidden, subsurface oceans. The findings generated new questions about the possibility of life on Europa.

SOHO Sheds New Light on Sun

Scientists using the joint European Space Agency/NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft have discovered "jet streams" or "rivers" of hot, electrically charged plasma flowing beneath the surface of the Sun.

For the latest news and information about NASA, visit TODAY@NASA at URL: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/NewsRoom/today.html>

Deputy Director of Suborbital Project and Operations Appointed

Craig L. Purdy has been appointed Deputy Director of Suborbital Projects and Operations (Code 800). The appointment became effective Dec. 7.

Purdy most recently was the Chief of the Engineering and Safety Division (Code 820) and will continue to serve as Acting Chief of that organization.

Santa Goes High Tech.....

The big guy at the North Pole is making final preparations for his annual visit to children around the world. Rumor has it that he has customized his sleigh using NASA and industry developed technologies.

Good old Saint Nick has integrated several safety and communication features that will greatly enhance his ability to maintain a schedule and complete his rounds in one night.

With the increase in air traffic around large cities, he has installed a collision avoidance system to detect and warn of nearby aircraft. Thunderstorm detection systems will enable him to steer clear of inclement weather.

For foggy destinations, he has installed a low visibility approach and landing system which uses computer graphics to outline on a glass visor landing points on the rooftop. Displaying updates in real-time; the

NASA/FAA System Helps Holiday Airline Travelers

Atlanta Hartsfield International, the nation's second largest airport in total passengers, is helping its holiday travelers miss fewer connections and wait less time for flights. The airport is using a new system developed by NASA and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The Surface Movement Advisor, is a set of computers and software that connects information constantly being gathered by the three entities that make an airport run. The local airport authority manages the airport's ramp areas, the airlines manages the gates, and the FAA's controllers monitor air traffic. This is the first automated system that distributes each group's information to the others.

This system makes the airport run more efficiently by reducing ground operations bottlenecks, allowing planes to be serviced and dispatched more quickly. Airline taxi departure times at Hartsfield have been reduced by more than one minute per flight.

Engineers at NASA's Ames Research Center in collaboration with FAA engineers, air traffic controllers, and airline and airport management staffs designed the system.

system also indicates items on roofs to avoid, such as chimneys and antennas.

The jolly one has made use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. With GPS and computer generated maps, Santa and the North Pole Operations Center (NPOC) always know exactly where he is. In addition, a newly installed autopilot system will allow Santa to maintain a course within one-foot of his flight plan.

The final enhancement, spells bad news for kids.

The elves at NPOC can keep watch to see who is naughty and nice while Santa is on his journey. Any changes to the list can be sent to Santa on his mobile laptop computer prior to his trip down the chimney. Now Santa can keep tabs on youngsters up to the moment he makes their toy delivery.

With Santa's new, improved systems, it looks like the toys will definitely get through again this year — and on time.



Weather the Winter

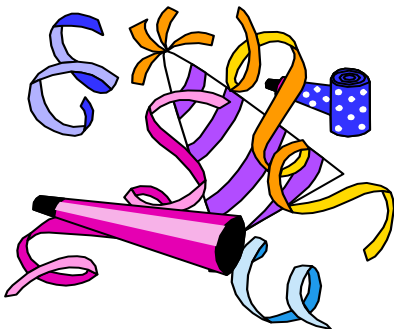
You and your family are driving to grandmother’s house for the holidays. She lives in the northern woods. You are in “the middle of nowhere,” and the car stalls. You don’t have a car phone. What is your best course of action?

Stay with your car unless you are positive you can improve the situation. Getting lost or frostbitten will not help matters. Stay in control. Think before you act.

You can alert passing motorists by using flares, warning lights, a flashlight, or even a bright piece of cloth tied to the car antenna. Run the car heater about once an hour to keep the car’s interior warm. If you’re stuck in snow, clear an area around the exhaust pipe and outside heater vents. The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning will be reduced.

Be prepared.....

The key to avoiding incidents and injuries during dangerous winter weather is the same as for other situations — plan ahead, keep calm and think before you act.



New Year’s Eve Party
Bldg. F-3
8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Music provided by
“Living Proof”

Tickets are \$15 per person and are on sale to WEMA members at the Wallops Exchange and the Rocket Club. To reserve a table call Bev Hall, x1714. Sponsored by the Morale Activities Committee, Wallops Employee Morale Association.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **George J. Rodgers** who died Dec. 13. Rodgers retired in 1980 as a lead electronics technician in the Data Acquisition Branch.

Whoops, Sorry!

The Dec. 15 issue of *InsideWallops*, lists *Terry Spurley* as having 25 Years of Service. He actually has 35 Years of Service.

We omitted Co-chairperson, *Freda Johnson*, Code 228, from the list of key-workers for the Wallops Combined Federal Campaign. Our apology!



The next issue of *Inside Wallops* will be Jan. 12, 1998.



McIntire Named WEMA Volunteer of the Year

The Wallops Employee Morale Association and the Morale Activities Committee have named Gerald S. McIntire the first Volunteer of the Year.

The award was presented by WEMA Advisor, Arnold Torres, during the Annual Awards Ceremony, Dec. 12.

McIntire received the citation for his dedication, hard work and outstanding

contributions on behalf of the employees of the Wallops Flight Facility.

McIntire organized the 4th of July picnic and served as Master of the Grill for the day. He organized the Easter Egg Hunt, and assisted with the Riverdance Video Night, Halloween Party, and Spaghetti Dinner. McIntire is one who can always be counted on to help decorate, move things around or just “be there”. His smile and “can do” attitude make things happen.

New Year’s Resolutions for Safety by Dianne Hargrove, R.N.

You’ve stopped making New Year’s resolutions because you make the same ones every year and fail to keep them. You may need to change your approach. You should set realistic, attainable goals. By starting small, you can build up to bigger goals.

We usually vow to make improvements related to health: quit smoking, cut down on alcohol, lose weight, exercise more. Safety should be included in your list of attainable goals. “Accidents” don’t just happen; they are caused. Education, attitudes and action can make a difference. Be aware of the following:

Hidden hazards – Hidden hazards usually exist. Drawers are left open, objects protruding at eye level and water spills are examples of such hazards.

Anger and stress – Family problems, money concerns and worries about children and aging parents can cause family anger and stress. When you’re

“seeing red” you are not so likely to see the hazards around your home.

Bad habits – Sloppy housekeeping can be dangerous. Set your household in good order and eliminate hazards.

Laziness – Those who are lazy are often sorry. For example, leaving items on the stairs may seem like the easiest thing to do, but it’s not the safest. Laziness can trip you up.

Excessive speed – Those who like to get things done in a hurry often go to the hospital ahead of others. “Think safety” and slow down.

Have a safe and healthy holiday from the Wallops Health Unit!!

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